

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the contents of the Office Action mailed December 30, 2002. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments.

By this Amendment, the specification has been revised addressing the informalities noted on page 2 of the Action, and claims 1-12 are cancelled and redrafted as new claims 13-24 as recommended in the Office Action. Accordingly, claims 13-24 are pending in the instant application.

Claims 3, 5-6 were objected to under 37 CFR §1.75(c) for failing to limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Claim 3 recited an "electric circuitry for the implementation for the driving scheme of claim 1". That is, claim 3 clearly claimed electric circuitry that enable the driving scheme of claim 1 to be achieved. As the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure explains on page 600-77 under "III. INFRINGEMENT TEST", the fact that the independent claim and the dependent claims are in different statutory classes (i.e., method and apparatus classes) does not, in itself, render the latter improper. It is respectfully submitted that newly presented claim 15 is directed to electronic circuitry for the implementation of the method of claim 13 and has structure including an integrator for obtaining the potential difference between the two electrodes of the electrooptic switching element and means for controlling the electric driving signals of the electrooptic switching element. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent electronic circuitry claims include every limitation of the method claim 13, which the circuitry is designed to implement.

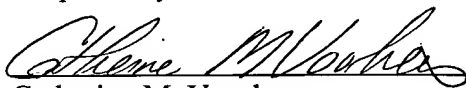
Claim 17 is written in independent form and is directed to the electronic circuitry shown in Figure 5. Claim 18 is also written in independent form and is directed to the electronic circuitry shown in Figure 9.

Claims 1-12 were objected to because of informalities noted in paragraph 4 of the Action and were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph for the reasons set forth in paragraph 6 of the Action. As stated above, claims 1-12 have been cancelled and are redrafted as new claims 13- 24. It is respectfully submitted that the newly submitted claims clearly point out the subject matter noted in paragraph 6 and correct the informalities noted in paragraph 4 of the Action. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 13-24 are fully definite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

An examination of claims 13-24 on the merits of the claimed invention is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



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